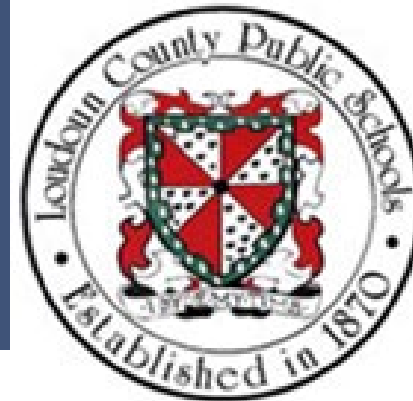


# SEAC Special Education Advisory Committee

Policy and Compliance Subcommittee

Review, Findings and Recommendations





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations



Policy 8155, School Assignment

[https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/loudoun/Board.nsf/files/BXAKU8531FF9/\\$file/Policy%208155-%20School%20Assignment.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/loudoun/Board.nsf/files/BXAKU8531FF9/$file/Policy%208155-%20School%20Assignment.pdf)

**Link:** [http://loudounseac.org/wiki/February 3, 2021](http://loudounseac.org/wiki/February_3,_2021)





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations



Policy 8155, School Assignment

### Review of Findings

The SEAC Policy Subcommittee reviewed this policy and determined that it does not meet the needs of Special Education students.





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### Overview: Policy 8155, School Assignment

#### History:

- Policy 8155 was updated by the school board January 2020.
- SEAC had requested to review the policy before going to the full school board and was denied.
- SEAC continues to be concerned with the discriminatory practice of having different rules and guidance for special education students. The SEAC Chair previously shared this concern in January 2020 .





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### Different Treatment of Students with Disabilities

Lines 99-105

99 (ii) For students with disabilities, capacity is defined as space  
100 available within the special education **cross-categorical**  
101 program and an appropriate instructional program is  
102 available at the requested school to adequately meet the  
103 student's educational needs as determined by the school  
104 division **and without requiring additional staff or incurring**  
105 **additional costs.**





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### Different Treatment of Students with Disabilities

#### Lines 231-233 - Appeals

231 (a) For under-enrolled schools, **or when capacity exists for**  
232 **elementary schools in the general education and/or special**  
233 **education cross-categorical program**, appeals may be made  
234 directly to the Director of Student Services for review.





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### Different Treatment of Students with Disabilities

- SPED students are treated differently than other student groups who receive specialized educational support (e.g., ELL, gifted).
- No other groups of students in LCPS are restricted in their ability to use Special Permission because of the educational supports they require.
- SEAC has received numerous reports that SPED students are often initially denied Special Permission, citing this policy.





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### **Different Treatment of Students with Disabilities**

- SPED students are subjected to significant additional restrictions beyond those placed on non-disabled students.
- 2020 restrictions deny SPED students the same Special Permission opportunities as non-disabled students.
- The proposed 2021 changes appear to further restrict students with disabilities from using Special Permission.
- SPED restrictions are based on resources a school had in the previous year rather than what students need in the upcoming year.







## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### **Different Treatment of Students with Disabilities**

- Staff assignment should be based on the needs of students at each school.
- Staff assignments should be made over the summer.
- SPED students are being denied Special Permission due to "capacity" before capacity at a school has been determined.





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### **Rationale:**

- SPED capacity by design has more flexibility than general education capacity.
- SPED students and their unique needs change throughout the school year.

### **At any time:**

- A student can move into a school's enrollment boundary
- A student can be found eligible for special education
- A student's special education service needs can change

*There are mechanisms already in place to make SPED resources available at a school at any time during the school year as necessary to meet students' needs.*





## Special Education Policy 8155 Review, Findings and Recommendations

### **Recommendation:**

Lines 99 -105 and Lines 232-233:

**SEAC recommends that the School Board remove restrictions placed on special education students from policy 8155.**





## SEAC Recommendations AND Voting



### Recommendations

### Voting

**Lines 99 – 105 and Lines 232 - 233:**

SEAC recommends that the School Board remove restrictions placed on special education students from policy 8155.



Thank you!

